

The uncertainty which exists in regard to the validity of land titles in California is a subject which demands your early consideration. Large bodies of land in that State are claimed under grants said to have been made by authority of the Spanish and Mexican Government. Many of these have not been perfected, others have been revoked, and some are believed to be fraudulent.

But until they shall have been judicially investigated, they will continue to retard the settlement and improvement of the country. I, therefore, respectfully recommend that provision be made by law for the appointment of commissioners to examine all such claims with a view to their final adjustment.

I also beg leave to call your attention to the propriety of extending, at an early day, our system of land laws, with such modifications as may be necessary over the State of California and the territories of Utah and New Mexico. The mineral lands of California will, of course, form an exception to any general system which may be adopted. Various methods of disposing of them have been suggested.

I was at first inclined to favor the system of leasing, as it seemed to promise the largest revenue to the Government and to afford the best security against monopolies; but further reflection, and our experience in leasing the lead mines and selling lands upon credit, have brought my mind to the conclusion that there would be great difficulty in collecting the rents, and that the relation of debtor and creditor, between the citizens and the Government, would be attended with many mischievous consequences.

I therefore recommend that, instead of retaining the mineral lands under the permanent control of the Government, they be divided into small parcels and sold, under such restrictions as to quantity and time, as will insure the best price, and guard most effectively against combinations of capitalists to obtain monopolies.

The annexation of Texas and the acquisition of California and New Mexico have given increased importance to our Indian relations. The various tribes brought under our jurisdiction by these enlargements of our boundaries are estimated to embrace a population of one hundred and twenty-four thousand.

Texas and New Mexico are surrounded by powerful tribes of Indians, who are a source of constant terror and annoyance to the inhabitants. Separating into small predatory bands, and always armed, they terrorize the country, devastating farms, destroying crops, driving off whole herds of cattle, and occasionally murdering the inhabitants or carrying them into captivity.

The great roads leading into the country are invested with them, whereby traveling is rendered extremely dangerous, and immigration is almost entirely arrested. The Mexican frontier, which, by the 11th article of the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, we are bound to protect against the Indians within our borders, is exposed to these incursions equally with our own.

The military force stationed in that country, although forming a large proportion of the army, is represented as entirely inadequate to our own protection and the fulfillment of our treaty stipulations with Mexico. The principal difficulty is in cavalry, and I recommend that Congress should, as early as possible, provide for the raising of one or more regiments of mounted men.

For further suggestions on the subject, and others connected with our domestic interests, and the defense of our frontier, I refer you to the report of the Secretary of the Interior and of the Secretary of War.

I commend also to your favorable consideration the suggestions contained in the last mentioned report, and in the letter of the general-in-chief, relative to the establishment of an asylum for the relief of disabled and destitute soldiers. This subject appeals so strongly to your sympathies that it would be superfluous in me to say any thing more, than briefly to express my cordial approbation of the proposed object.

The navy continues to give protection to our commerce and other national interests in the different quarters of the globe, and, with the exception of a single steamer on the Northern lakes, the vessels in commission are distributed in six different squadrons.

The report of the head of that Department will exhibit the services of these squadrons, and of the several vessels employed in each during the past year. It is a source of gratification that, while they have been constantly prepared for any hostile emergency, they have everywhere met with the respect and courtesy, due as well to the dignity as the peaceful dispositions of the nation.

The two brigades accepted by the Government, from a generous citizen of New York, and placed under the command of an officer of the navy; to proceed to the Arctic seas in quest of the British commander, Sir John Franklin, and his companions, in compliance with the act of Congress, approved in May last, had, when last heard from, penetrated into a high northern latitude; but the success of this noble and humane enterprise is yet uncertain.

I invite your attention to the view of our present naval establishment and resources presented in the report of the Secretary of the Navy, and the suggestions therein made for its improvement, together with the naval policy recommended for the security of our Pacific coast, and the protection and extension of our commerce with Eastern Asia.

Our facilities for a participation in the trade of the East by means of our recent settlement on the shores of the Pacific, are too obvious to be overlooked or disregarded.

The questions in relation to rank in the army and navy, and relative rank between officers of the two branches of the service, presented to the Executive by certain resolutions of the House of Representatives, at the last session of Congress, have been submitted to a board of officers in each branch of the service, and their report may be expected at an early day.

I also earnestly recommend the enactment of a law authorizing officers of the army and navy to be retired from the service, when incompetent for its vigorous and active duties, taking care to make suitable provision for those who have faithfully served their country, and awarding distinctions, by retaining to appropriate commands those who have been particularly conspicuous for gallantry and good conduct.

While the obligation of the country to

maintain and honor those who, to the exclusion of other pursuits, have devoted themselves to its arduous service, this obligation should not be permitted to interfere with the efficiency of the service itself.

I am gratified in being able to state, that the estimates of expenditure for the navy in the ensuing year are less, by more than one million of dollars, than those of the present, excepting the appropriation which may become necessary for the construction of a dock on the coast of the Pacific, propositions for which are now being considered, and on which a special report may be expected early in your present session.

There is an evident justness in the suggestion of the same report, that appropriations for the naval service proper should be separated from those for fixed and permanent objects, such as building docks and navy yards, and the fixtures attached; and from the extraordinary objects under the care of the Department, which, however important, are not essentially naval.

A revision of the code for the government of the navy seems to require the immediate consideration of Congress. Its system of crimes and punishments had undergone no change for half a century, until the last session, though its defects have been often and ably pointed out, and the abolition of a particular species of corporal punishment, which then took place, without providing any substitute, has left the service in a state of defectiveness, which calls for prompt correction.

I therefore recommend that the whole subject be revised without delay, such a system established for the enforcement of discipline as shall be at once humane and efficient.

The accompanying report of the Postmaster General presents a satisfactory view of the operations and condition of that department.

At the close of the last fiscal year, the length of the inland mail routes in the United States (not embracing the service in Oregon and California) was one hundred and seventy-eight thousand six hundred and seventy-two miles; the annual transportation thereon forty-six million five hundred and forty-one thousand four hundred and twenty-three miles; and the annual cost of such transportation two million seven hundred and twenty-four thousand and four hundred and twenty-six dollars.

The increase of the annual transportation over that of the preceding year, was three millions nine hundred and ninety-seven thousand three hundred and fifty-four miles, and the increase in cost was three hundred and forty-two thousand four hundred and forty dollars.

The number of post-offices in the United States on the first day of July last, was eighteen thousand four hundred and seventy-one—being an increase of sixteen hundred and seventy during the preceding year.

The gross revenues of the Department for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1850, amounted to five millions five hundred and fifty-two thousand nine hundred and seventy-one dollars and forty cents, including the annual appropriation of two hundred thousand dollars for the franking matter of the departments, and excluding the foreign postages collected for and payable to the British Government.

The expenditures for the same period were five millions two hundred and twelve thousand nine hundred and fifty-three dollars and forty cents—leaving a balance of revenue over expenditures of three hundred and forty thousand and eighty-two dollars and five cents.

I am happy to find that the fiscal condition of the Department is such as to justify the Postmaster General in recommending the reduction of our inland letter postage to three cents the single letter, when prepaid, and five cents when not prepaid.

He also recommends that the prepaid rate shall be reduced to two cents, when the revenues of the Department after the reduction, shall exceed its expenditures by more than five per cent, for two consecutive years; that the postage upon California and other letters sent by ocean steamers shall be much reduced; and that the rates of postage on newspapers, pamphlets, periodicals, and other printed matter shall be modified, and some reduction thereon made.

It cannot be doubted that the proposed reductions, will for the present, diminish the revenues of the Department. It is believed that the deficiency, after the surplus already accumulated shall be exhausted, may be almost wholly met, either by abolishing the existing privilege of sending free matter through the mails, or by raising out of the Treasury to the Post Office Department a sum equivalent to the postage of which it is deprived by such privileges. The last is supposed to be the preferable mode, and will, if not entirely, so nearly supply that deficiency as to make any further appropriation that may be found necessary so inconsiderable as to form no obstacle to the proposed reductions.

I entertain no doubt of the authority of Congress to make appropriations for leading objects in that class of public works, comprising what are usually called works of internal improvement. The authority I suppose to be derived chiefly from the power of regulating commerce with foreign nations, and among the States, and the power of laying and collecting imposts. Where commerce is to be carried on, and imposts collected, there must be ports and harbors, as well as wharves and custom-houses.

If ships, laden with valuable cargoes, approach the shore, or sail along the coast, light-houses are necessary, at suitable points, for the protection of life and property. Other facilities and securities for commerce and navigation are hardly less important; and those clauses of the Constitution, therefore, to which I have referred, have received from the origin of Government a liberal and beneficial construction.

Not only have light-houses, buoys, and beacons been established, and floating lights maintained, but harbors have been cleared and improved, piers constructed, and even break waters for the safety of shipping, and sea walls to protect harbors from being filled up and rendered useless by the action of the ocean, have been created at very great expense.

And this construction of the Constitution appears the more reasonable from the consideration, that if these works, of such evident importance and utility, are not to be accomplished by Congress, they cannot be accomplished by the States, or by the individuals. By the adoption of the Constitution, the several States voluntarily parted with the power of collecting duties of impost in their own ports; and it

is not to be expected that they should raise money, by internal taxation, direct or indirect, for the benefit of that commerce, the revenues derived from which do not, either in whole or in part, go into their own treasuries.

Nor do I perceive any difference between the power of Congress to make appropriations for objects of this kind in the ocean, and the power to make appropriations for similar objects on lakes and rivers, wherever they are extensive enough to bear on the waters an extensive trade. The magnificent Mississippi and its tributaries, and the vast lakes of the north and north-west, appear to me to fall within the exercise of the power, as justly and as clearly as the Ocean and Gulf of Mexico.

It is a mistake to regard expenditures judiciously made for these objects as expenditures for local purposes. The position, or site of the work, is necessarily local; but its utility is general. A ship canal around the falls of St. Mary, of less than a mile in length, though local in its construction, would yet be national in its purpose and its benefits, as it would remove the only obstruction to a navigation of more than a thousand miles, affecting several States, as well as our commercial relations with Canada.

So, too, the Break water at the mouth of the Delaware is erected, not for the exclusive benefit of the States bordering on the bay and river of that name, but for that of the whole coastwise navigation of the United States, and, to a considerable extent also, of foreign commerce.

If a ship be lost on the bar at the entrance of a southern port for want of sufficient depth of water, it is very likely to be a northern ship; and if a steamer be sunk in its channel, not having been properly cleared of obstructions, it may be a vessel belonging to either of the eight or ten States.

I may add, as somewhat remarkable, that among all the thirty-one States, there is none that is not, to a greater or less extent, bounded on the ocean, or the Gulf of Mexico, or one of the great lakes, or some navigable river.

In fulfilling our constitutional duties, fellow-citizens, on this subject, as in carrying into effect all other powers conferred by the Constitution, we should consider ourselves as deliberating and acting for one and the same country, and bear in mind that, as to our regard and our duty are due not to a particular part only, but to the whole.

I therefore recommend that appropriations be made for completing such works as have been already begun, and for commencing such others as may seem to the wisdom of Congress to be of public and general importance.

The difficulties and delays, incident to the settlement of private claims of Congress, amount in many cases to a denial of justice. There is reason to apprehend that many unfortunate creditors of the Government have thereby been unavoidably ruined. Congress has so much business of a public character, that it is impossible it should give much attention to mere private claims, and their accumulation is now so great that many claimants must despair of ever being able to obtain a hearing. It may well be doubted whether Congress, from the nature of its organization, is properly constituted to decide upon such cases.

It is impossible that each member should examine the merits of every claim on which he is compelled to vote; and it is preposterous to ask a judge to decide a case which he has never heard. Such decisions may, and frequently must, do injustice either to the claimant or the Government, and I perceive no better remedy for this growing evil than the establishment of some tribunal to adjudicate upon such claims. I beg leave, therefore, most respectfully, to recommend that provision be made by law for the appointment of a commission to settle all private claims against the United States; and, as an *ex parte* hearing must in all contested cases be very unsatisfactory, I also recommend the appointment of a Solicitor, whose duty it shall be to represent the Government before such commission, and protect it against all illegal, or fraudulent misrepresentations, which may be presented for their adjudication.

This District, which has neither voice nor vote in your deliberations, looks to you for protection and aid, and I commend all its wants to your favorable consideration, with a full confidence that you will meet them not only with justice, but with liberality. It should be borne in mind that in this city, laid out by Washington, and consecrated by his name, is located the Capitol of our nation, the emblem of our Union and the symbol of greatness. Here also are situated all the public buildings necessary for the use of the Government, and all these are exempt from taxation.

It should be the pride of Americans to render this place attractive to the people of the whole Republic, and convenient and safe for the transaction of the public business and the preservation of the public records. The Government should, therefore, bear a liberal proportion of the burdens of a city, and make no improvements, And, as nothing could contribute more to the health, comfort and safety of the city, and the security of the public buildings and records, than an abundant supply of pure water, I respectfully recommend that you make such provisions for obtaining the same as in your wisdom you may deem proper.

The act passed at your last session, making certain propositions to Texas for settling the disputed boundary between that State and the Territory of New Mexico, was immediately on its passage, transmitted by express to the Governor of Texas, to be laid by him before the General Assembly for its agreement thereto. Its receipt was duly acknowledged, but no official information has yet been received of the action of the General Assembly thereon; it may, however, be very soon expected, as by the terms of the propositions submitted, they were to have been acted upon, on or before the first day of the present month.

It was hardly to be expected that the series of measures passed at your last session, with the view of healing the sectional differences which had sprung from the slavery and territorial questions, should at once have realized their beneficent purpose. All mutual concession in the nature of a compromise must necessarily be unavailing to men of extreme opinions. And though without such concessions our Constitution could not have been formed, and cannot be permanently sus-

tained, yet we have seen them made the subject of bitter controversy in both sections of the Republic. It required many months of discussion and deliberation to secure the concurrence of a majority of Congress in their favor.

It would be strange if they had been received with immediate approbation by people and States, prejudiced and heated by the exciting controversies of their representatives. I believe those measures to have been required by the circumstances and condition of the country. I believe they were necessary to allay animosities and animosities that were rapidly alienating one section of the country from another, and destroying those fraternal sentiments which are the strongest supports of the Constitution. They were adopted in the spirit of conciliation, and for the purpose of conciliation.

I believe that a great majority of our fellow citizens sympathize in that spirit, and that purpose, and in the main approve, and are prepared, in all respects, to sustain these enactments. I cannot doubt that the American people, bound together by kindred blood and common traditions, still cherish a warm regard for the Union of their fathers; and that they are ready to rebuke any attempt to violate its integrity to disturb the compromises on which it is based, or to resist the laws which have been enacted under its authority.

The series of measures to which I have alluded are regarded by me as a settlement, in principle and substance—a final settlement of the dangerous and exciting subjects which they embraced. Most of these subjects, indeed, are beyond your reach, as the legislation which disposed of them was, in its character, final and irrevocable. It may be presumed from the opposition which they all encountered that the measures were far from perfect, but in their mutual dependence and connection they formed a system of compromise, the most conciliatory, and best for the entire boundary, that could be obtained from conflicting sectional interests and opinions.

For this reason, I recommend your adherence to the adjustment established by these measures, until time and experience shall demonstrate the necessity of further legislation to guard against evasion or abuse.

By that adjustment we have been rescued from the wide and boundless agitation that surrounded us, and have a firm, distinct, and legal ground to rest upon. And, in my opinion, I trust, will justify me in exhorting my countrymen to rally upon that ground, and maintain that ground as the best, not the only means of restoring peace and quiet to the country, and maintaining the integrity of the country.

And now, fellow citizens, I cannot bring this communication to a close without invoking you to join me in humble and devout thanks to the Great Ruler of nations, for the multiplied blessings which he has graciously bestowed upon us. His hand, so often visible in our preservation, has stayed the pestilence, saved us from foreign wars and domestic disturbances, and scattered plenty throughout the land.

Our liberties, religious and civil, have been maintained; the fountains of knowledge have all been kept open, and means of happiness wisely spread and generally enjoyed, greater than have fallen to the lot of any other nation. And, while deeply penetrated with gratitude for the past, let us hope that his all-wise Providence will so guide our counsels, as they shall result in giving satisfaction to our constituents, securing the peace of the country, and adding new strength to the united Government under which we live.

MILLARD FILLMORE.
WASHINGTON, December 21, 1850.

SOUND DOCTRINE.
The following from the Liverpool Mail discloses an important fact, and no person can deny that this new test of the willingness of debtors to pay is based upon common sense:

We were not aware until recently that the books of newspaper publishers are consulted to quite a large extent by the people in business, to ascertain the pecuniary standing of persons. Debts for newspapers become due once a year, and persons who pay up regularly for their papers are regarded as prompt men, and worthy of confidence. We had a person come into our office the other day and ask—"Do you send the paper now to Mr. —?" We replied that we did. "Well," said the man, "he owes me £5, and I can't get it; I don't think he's good." We looked secretly at his account, and found him paid up. We then replied to the inquirer, "that man is good. Your debt is safe. He may have forgotten it, or something else may have prevented his paying, he is good." The man's eyes brightened. Said he, "I have written to several printers, and could not find where he took a paper. I thought of you and said I would come here," said he, "and find out whether people are good. We ascertain what paper they take, and contrive some way to peep into their accounts. Men who are good are sure to pay for their newspapers, and if they do not pay for these, we don't think them good." We were forcibly struck by the idea. "Well," said he, "I will send my bill by the post." In a few days the person came in again. Said he, "I sent up my bill." "Well did he pay you?" Yes sir, and opening his hand he showed us the draft. "There," said he, "give me a printer's book after all, to tell whether a man's good, they're a complete thermometer; we always know a man to be bad if he don't pay the printer."

The Postmaster General in his report recommends that a uniform rate of postage for letters shall be adopted, viz: three cents when prepaid, and five cents when not prepaid. He recommends, also, a reduction in the rates of letter postage to California and Oregon; a reduction on newspaper postage when within one hundred miles of the place of publication; and a reduction generally on pamphlets and magazines.

GOING THROUGH THE MILL.—A stammering blacksmith, attending as witness at a court, in a money dispute between two of his men, was asked by the judge why he did not advise them to arrange the matter. His answer was, "I to-ld the fo-o-ls to se-e-tle; for I said the clerk would take their co-a-ts, the lawyers their sh-i-rts, and if they got into your honor's clutches, you'd ski-n 'em."

DEMOCRATIC PIONEER.

TUESDAY MORNING, DEC. 10, 1850.

"THE VIRGINIA SOUTHRON."

This is the title of a new paper about to be started in the town of Suffolk, Virginia, by Messrs. A. W. Starke, (a brother of the editor of this paper,) and D. J. Godwin, of that town. From their prospectus we learn that the "Southron" will be Democratic in politics, and ardently devoted to the cause of Southern Rights. There is no paper published there at this time, and we trust that the "Southron" will be liberally sustained, and the enterprising proprietors rewarded with abundant success. The first No. will be issued about the 1st of January, and the price of subscription is \$2 50 per annum.

LADIES' FAIR.

We take great pleasure in announcing (at the request of a number of fair ones), that the ladies of the Episcopal Church intend opening a Fair at the "Pioneer" Office, this (Tuesday) evening, for the purpose of raising funds to defray expenses incurred in building a school-house, &c. We understand that many articles of exquisite workmanship, together with a bountiful supply of "creature comforts," and the like, will be exposed to sale. Add to these the superior charms of the fair hands by which they will be served up, and the attractions will be irresistible and overwhelming. So, young gentlemen, you can either "surrender at discretion," or prepare to be annihilated by a broadside of Cupid's arrows. We "sue for quarter" in advance, and raise the standard of the fair, which shall never be permitted to trail in the dust while we have a (no matter what, whether a warm heart or a strong arm)

VALUABLE ARTICLE.—We have received from Mr. L. K. Saunders a bottle of "Liquid Soap," prepared by himself, for removing oil, stains, &c., from cloth; and having subjected it to a very severe test, (that of taking printing ink out of cloth,) we feel no hesitation in recommending it to the public. It thoroughly removes the stain, cleanses the cloth, and restores it to its original beauty and gloss. It is perfectly simple in its use, and may be applied with a sponge or soft brush, by any one, without fear of injuring the cloth.

COAST SURVEY.

There are now three U. S. schooners operating in this vicinity, making surveys of the waters between this town and Cape Hatteras, as follows: Schr. John Y. Mason, at Currituck Sound; officers—Lieut. com'dg Wainwright; Passed Midshipman Webb; do. do. Simmons; do. do. Pattison; Sailing Master, Wm. Zachary.

The schr. Bancroft at Cape Hatteras, with the following scientific corps: A. S. Wadsworth, C. T. Jardella, L. F. Pourtales, and E. F. Mason. John Cheares Sailing Master.

The schr. Vanderbilt at Currituck Sound, in charge of J. S. Hassler.—Daniel Cheares Sailing Master.

THE BAIL MOVING.

According to previous announcement, the citizens of Chowan county held a meeting in Edenton on Monday, the 2d inst., Dr. Thomas D. Warren in the chair, assisted by Joshua Skinner and John H. Leary, Esqrs. as Vice Presidents, and W. A. Littlejohn and John H. Leary, Jr., as Secretaries. The Chairman (says the Bulletin) stated the object of the meeting, and in eloquent and soul-stirring language, depicted the present distracted state of the country, and enumerated the acts of injustice which had been heaped upon us. He asserted our love for the Union of our forefathers, and our earnest desire to perpetuate that Union, but declared our fixed and unalterable determination to insist upon our rights in the Union, and under the Constitution. His remarks were received with a loud and unanimous burst of applause.

Speeches were made by Hugh W. Collins and L. I. Johnson, Esqrs., and a committee appointed to draft resolutions. After a short retirement, the committee reported that they were unable, in consequence of the lateness of the hour, to prepare such resolutions as they desired, but requested that they might be permitted to report to an adjourned meeting; whereupon, on motion of Dr. W. C. Warren, the meeting adjourned to Friday evening.

[Since writing the above, we learn that, at the adjourned meeting, the most patriotic, but decided and stringent resolutions were adopted.]

Washington county is also moving in the matter; and we see by the last Plymouth News, that a meeting of the citizens of that county was called for Friday last, "to take into consideration the present state of Northern aggression on Southern rights." The "News," commenting on the subject, claims to have been the first to "raise its voice in favor of non-intercourse with the North, as the most efficient and only means by which the North could be brought to a sense of redressing our many grievances," and strongly urges the people to prompt and united action. We are glad to see our neighbors thus taking a firm and decisive stand on this question, and ardently hope and confidently believe that their efforts will be crowned with the most signal success.

AS WE EXPECTED.

"Nero fiddled while Rome was burning," and the editor of the "Old North State" sings lullabies to his readers while they are threatened with the most disastrous consequences, and while the utmost watchfulness and energy are necessary. "The price of liberty is eternal vigilance," exclaimed a good and patriotic man; but our neighbor endeavors to dispel all apprehensions and lull the public into profound sleep. He comes out in opposition to the proposed Southern Rights Association; he is "opposed to it and all similar schemes, at the present time;" he "looks upon it as premature;" and "exhorts the friends of the Union and of the Compromise to hold themselves aloof from any Southern Rights Association, now." &c. "In time of peace, prepare for war," was the advice of an illustrious man; and though no war is proposed, yet the South is assailed in a manner which calls for retaliation, not only as a measure of retributive justice, but of self-respect and prosperity. A proposition is made simply to withhold our own money from Northern fanatics, and spend it at home; and our neighbor shrinks from the responsibility, lest it should "stir up sectional feelings and jealousies." The North may "pile Pelion upon Ossa" in the form of outrage and abuse—they may recklessly disregard all constitutional obligations, and wantonly trample upon the rights of the South—and yet a Southern editor "exhorts" the South not to "stir up sectional feelings and jealousies!" Now we maintain that this is one of the surest means of allaying agitation; for, by taking this step, we would convince the North that we are aroused to a full sense of our wrongs, and are in earnest in our resolution to submit no longer to their aggressions.

It will be remembered that, a short while ago, our neighbor triumphantly quoted the Richmond Enquirer against us: we now "commend the poisoned chalice to his own lips" (for though essentially patriotic in itself, it is "poison" to him). Unlike the "Old North State," that paper is not blind to the signs of the times, but with characteristic sagacity sees the danger and sounds a note of preparation. It says:

"In this day of mischief and treachery, what shall Virginia do? The Philistines are upon you. Up to the rescue, for self-defense, and security for the future. Your fate shall be ours, now and forever."

"We are ready to urge Virginia to seize the strong weapon of commercial non-intercourse, and strike down the sword that Massachusetts has raised for the destruction of our stupendous confederation of States."

"We are prepared to say that not another element is so powerful a weapon against the whole North as cutting down their trade with us. We have been long enough robbed of the commercial benefits of the Union under which we exist. A remedy so powerful, if resorted to, may perpetuate, on satisfactory terms, an alliance, which is now devoid of any very pleasing features. If the enactments of our federal government are to be directed by fanaticism in such forms as to defeat its just purposes."

"We are, farther, ready to hear much said against so stringent a proceeding, but, stringent as it may appear, the signs of the times point to such a measure with a certainty almost beyond doubt."

Aye, truly! And we warn our neighbor that if he does not voluntarily come into measures, he will be dragged into it, neck and heels, by the overwhelming force of public opinion, or consigned to a position not unlike that of the unworthy croaker of the revolution, who cried "Beef, beef," while the hearts of the people were wholly bent on resisting British aggression.

For ourselves, we have taken our position, and will not desert it. There may be croakers in the South who would oppose all measures of self-preservation; there may be some who would yield to any oppressions of the North—who would preach peace while the North is making war upon us—who are afraid of wounding the delicate sensibilities (Heaven save the mark!) of our aggressors—who would even undertake to convince the South, that she has received no injury at the hands of the North—and who would refuse to co-operate with the South in any measure of redress, notwithstanding such measure is just in itself, calculated to restore the North to their senses, and build up the South to a position of dignity and prosperity and greatness to which she is entitled. But, for ourselves, we would rather "be a dog and bay the moon, than such a" Southron.

A special convention of the Episcopal Church of New York has been held for the purpose of electing a Bishop to supply the place of Bishop Doane, but, after several days of unsuccessful balloting, it adjourned without effecting an election. The prominent candidates were the Right Rev. Horatio Southgate, Rev. Dr. Whitehouse, Rev. John Williams, and Rev. Dr. Seabury.

HOT AND COLD.

A few weeks since the Editor of the "Old North State" denounced the Hon. Henry A. Wise as a "chameleon and soul contracted politician," for whom he (the editor) had "sovereign contempt." In his last paper, he copies an extract from an address of Mr. Wise, and heads it with the complimentary caption of "A Noble Sentiment!" Comment is unnecessary.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

This document, contrary to the general usage, was sent into Congress on Monday, the first day of the session. On Tuesday evening we received a copy of it (the only one sent to this town through the politeness of our esteemed agent in Norfolk, Mr. D. J. Hill, and on Wednesday evening issued it in an extra to our town subscribers. We venture to say that no previous message was ever laid before our people at so early a period. We this morning lay it before our readers in the regular edition of the "Pioneer."

We commend this important State paper to the attentive perusal of all who are interested in it. It is needless to submit any comments upon the general character of the message, as the reader can form his own opinions. It is a very plain, unostentatious affair, and there is no effort at display. But there is one point upon which we will make a single remark.

The President says, (in allusion, we suppose, to the slavery question,) that "in our domestic policy, the Constitution will be my guide." Towards the close, he says that "a great majority of our people approve, and are prepared in all respects to sustain these enactments" (the Compromise measures,) he "can not doubt that the American people will rebuke any attempt to violate its (the Union's) integrity, to disturb the compromises on which it is based, or to resist the laws which have been enacted under its authority;" says that the Compromise "measures are regarded by him as a settlement, in principle and substance, a final settlement of the dangerous and exciting subjects which they embraced;" that "by the adjustment we have been rescued from the wide and boundless agitation that surrounded us, and have a firm, distinct and legal ground to rest upon;" and "recommend an adherence to the adjustment established by those measures until time and experience shall demonstrate the necessity of further legislation to guard against evasion or abuse," with a sprinkling of invocations to "the Union of our fathers," &c.

Now, for our own part, we are unable to appreciate the truth of some of these positions. We do not believe that the Northern people approve and are prepared in all respects to sustain these enactments;—we do not believe that they will "rebuke" resistance to the fugitive-slave law, for they have upheld that resistance;—we do not believe that the adjustment is a "settlement, a final settlement, of the dangerous and exciting subjects which it embraces;" for the fanatics will not let it rest;—we do not believe that "by that adjustment we have been rescued from the wide and boundless agitation that surrounded us," for the "agitation," North and South, is as "wide and boundless" now as ever;—nor do we believe that he will see the fugitive-slave law executed; for he failed to do so in the case of the Boston outrage, and we have a right to conclude that he will again resort to the same flimsy pretexts which he sought out at that occasion; and which, according to the Richmond Enquirer, (a warm advocate of the adjustment), "strike from the officer and the man, the last vestige of confidence, and call for an universal condemnation, unqualified and complete." We should greatly prefer *ad idcirco*; and when he evinces his determination to enforce the law by his acts, we shall be prompt to award him due meed of praise.

But the reader can judge for himself—comment is unnecessary.

COMMUNICATIONS.

For the Pioneer.

MR. EDITOR:—I propose, with your permission, to notice a communication which appeared in the last issue of the "Old North State," over the signature of "A Merchant." My object is mainly to correct a misconception on the part of our worthy "Merchant," in relation to the object designed to be accomplished by the proposed Southern Rights Association. I shall endeavor, first, to quiet his excited imagination, and soothe his irritated sensibilities, by the assurance that no encroachment on his individual rights, and, better still, no invasion of his personal interest, either direct or indirect, is contemplated by that Association. If he has been "frightened" to his propriety" by ideal and ugly visions of prospective evil, terrible as Banquo's ghost, I would advise him as a friend to quiet the workings of his perturbed spirit, and speedily resume the "current" of his calm and contemplative philosophy. No harm is intended him—not the slightest. His pocket will be safe, and his patriotism undoubted. Let us prove the point. He apprises us, in *timore*, that the city of Norfolk, in Virginia, is situated at a distance of forty miles from us; that there exists a strong competition between the two places; and that our farmers are often induced to visit Norfolk to purchase their goods. He declares, furthermore, that if the bill now pending in our Legislature, proposing to lay a tax on Northern manufactures imported into our markets, be passed, it will offer an additional inducement for our people to visit Norfolk for their supplies. But I hope his apprehensions will be quieted when he is informed that Virginia is pursuing the same line of policy, and that, in obedience to a suggestion of her Governor, a bill has been introduced into the Legislature, imposing restrictions (equal, if not exceeding our own) on Northern manufactures and foreign goods imported through Northern ports. Where, then, will be the new inducement to buy in Norfolk?

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er. But the time for ACTION has arrived, and the South should strike for her own preservation and prosperity.

What strange infatuation has seized upon them, and what moral palsy has blunted their manly sensibilities, and rendered the callous to insult and dishonor? But if they are determined to persist in a course of degrading vassalage to the North despite the friendly warnings and calm expostulations of an indignant and an outraged people, let us leave them to their shame and boldly assert the rights of American freemen.

E. City, Dec. 9. CIVIS.

For the Pioneer.

MR. EDITOR:—In the "Old North State" of Saturday last appears an article under the signature of "A Merchant," in reference to the proposed "Southern Rights Association," in which the writer takes rather strange ground, and opposes any such formation upon the plea that it will injure the merchants of E. City, by causing them to turn their backs in resort to the Norfolk route, instead of purchasing them here. I fully agree with "A merchant" in the remark that the subject "demands the serious consideration of all interested in the matter." And who are they that are not interested in the matter? Who of us at the South having our interests identified with her institutions, are not interested in guarding and protecting them from the hand of the spoiler by all just and honorable means? I would not pretend to question the devotion of "A Merchant" to Southern Institutions, or his zeal in behalf of every thing that tends to her advancement or prosperity: for I know that his interests are incorporated with the perpetuation of those institutions, and his patriotism is of too pure a nature to be swayed by the mere consideration of dollars and cents. I think that he views this subject in a wrong light and has not given it that political bearing to which it is entitled.—Were E. City, or Pasquotank County,

should spend an hour or two of delightful sociability and discuss the merits of delicious viands, are advised to call in at the "Pioneer" office, where the congregated beauty and fashion of the Town are holding a Fair for the most laudable objects. Remember, this evening and to-morrow, (3-5) The first Fair ever held in a Printing Office! The "Pioneer" is immortalized!

We are crowded to death this week.

Niagara excites our wonder, and we stand amazed at the power and greatness of God there, as he "pours it forth from his hollow hand." But one Niagara is enough for the continent, or the world, while the same world requires thousands and tens of thousands of silver fountains and gentle flowing rivulets, that water every farm and meadow, and every garden, and shall flow on every day, and every night, with their gentle and quiet beauty.

NORFOLK MARKETS.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1850.

RACON—Virginia and N. Carolina hog round new 7½; Hams 9½ a 10c.
CORN—White and mixed corn 56 a 60 cts.; yellow 55 a 59 cts.
COTTON—12½ a 133 cents.
FLOUR—\$4 to \$6½.
FLAXSEED—\$1 a \$1 35.
LARD—\$½ a 9 cents.
PEAS—B. E. 50 a 56 cts, from stores.
PORK—Mess., \$11½ a 12.
Price, \$8½ a \$9.
STAVE—V. O. bbl. \$45.
W. O. hhd. in demand, \$32 a \$35.
R. O. hhd. \$21 a \$22.
W. O. Heading, \$38 a \$40.
Rough W. O. hbl. \$22.
TAR—Black, \$1 37 a \$1 50.

BALTIMORE MARKET—Dec. 4.
Flour—Howard street and City Mills \$62½ a \$4 68½.
Wheat—Good to prime red, 100 a 101 cts.; ordinary red 95 a 100c.; white 106 a 107c.; family flour white 108 a 115 cts.
Corn—Old white corn 51 a 52c.; yellow 50 a 53c.

the most competent BLACKSMITHS in the country, and is now prepared to execute all orders that may be entrusted to him, in every department of the business—such as HORSE SHOEING, CARRIAGE WORK, EIGHT TOOLS, &c. in the best manner, neatness, capacity and finish unsurpassed. He assures the public that all work done by him will be executed in the most faithful and workmanlike manner.

N. B.—Old Axes laid at the shortest notice. Persons living in Perquimans, can deposit work with him, in Esq., in Hertford, who will forward it without any additional cost, and it shall receive prompt attention.

E. City, Nov. 12, 1850.

DRY GOODS, GROCERIES, &c.
THE subscribers have just received from the North a large stock of DRY GOODS, Groceries, Boots and Shoes, Hats, Caps, Crockery, Groceries, and Hard Ware; which will sell low.

Those in want, will please call and examine or stock before purchasing elsewhere.

RICHARDSON & MORGAN.
E. City, Oct. 15.

WANTED.
TWENTY OR THIRTY GOOD STAVE GETTERS, for the ensuing year, for which the highest price will be paid.

GEO. D. HAPPER,
N. W. Canal, Norfolk Co., Va.
Nov. 5

SHOOTING IRONS.
THE subscriber has on hand, a few fine Double Barrel Guns, which he will sell low.

ROBINSON WHITE.
E. City, Oct. 15.

SHOOTING IRONS!
JUST call at the store of Richardson & Morgan, if you want to purchase a fine Double Barreled Gun.

ROBERTS' STOVE DEPOT,
AND
COPPER AND TIN FACTORY,
ROADSIDE SQUARE, NORFOLK, VA.
TIN WARE, by the package or otherwise, less or than any other establishment in Virginia. Copper, of all kinds, executed; STOVE of all kinds, small purposes; SHEET, BAR and PIPE LEAD, SHEET ZINC, COPPER, LEAD IRON, &c.

SHOWER-BATHS.
with sliding tops or force Pumps, Various patterns.
O. Oct 8 WM. D. ROBERTS, Jr.

PICKLES, &c.—75 jars of Pickles; 25 bottles of Catsup, (Walnut and Tomato); also Pepper Sauce, to be found at the Provision Dealer No. 7 Campbell's wharf, Norfolk, Va.

AUG. 25 S. C. GRIGGS

DENTIST.

Continues to operate in all the branches of his profession, at his office, corner of Road and Market streets, Elizabeth City.

REFERENCES.

S. D. Grice, M. D.,	H. H. Gwinn, Esq.,
J. S. Musgrave, M. D.,	G. Elliott, Esq.,
K. R. Speed, M. D.,	J. W. Hinton, Esq.,
Rev. E. M. Forbes,	J. Black, Esq.,
Aug 6	Wm. E. Mann, Esq.

FARM AND FISHERY FOR RENT.

SALE OF
STOCK, CROP, FARMING UTENSILS, &c.

THE Subscriber will offer for sale, on Wednesday, the 22d. of October next, the late residence of Charles E. Johnson, the late STOCK, and part of the crop now on the Farm long and generally known as BANDON in this County, and also the FARMING UTENSILS, and HOUSEHOLD AND KITCHEN FURNITURE.

He will also dispose of the Seine, Fishing apparatus, a lot of Salt, Barrels and all the fixtures necessary for fishing purposes.

At the same time and place, he will offer for sale **THE FARM AND FISHERY.**

A particular description of the same is deemed unnecessary, as its locality and advantages are well known. (37) The terms will be made known on the day of sale.

L. L. JOHNSON, Ex-
Oct. 22d. Oct. 22d. Oct. 22d.

DRY GOODS, GROCERIES, &c.

THE subscriber here leaves to return his acknowledgments to a generous public for the liberal patronage with which they have favored him during the brief period he has been permitted to occupy. He solicits a continuance of the same. He has just received his Fall and Winter stock of well selected Dry Goods—clothes, Fancys, Groceries, &c. &c. of which he is prepared to sell at the market prices.

He will take in exchange for goods all kinds of produce such as Corn, Wheat, Peas, Beans, Flaxseed, &c.

Purchasers will find it to their interest to give me a call at the store on Road street, beyond the Depot, and opposite the Desert Road, formerly occupied by J. J. Grand.

E. City, Oct. 22. M. O. JORDAN

J. E. DEFORD,
APOTHECARY AND DRUGGIST
AND WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DEALER
IN DRUGS, MEDICINES, CHEMICALS,
PAINTS, OILS, GLASSWARE, DYE
STUFFS, BRUSHES, PERFUMERY,
TOILET, FANCY ARTICLES, &c.

Aug 6

BOUNTY LANDS.

THIE undersigned will attend promptly to procuring the warrants of Officers and Soldiers in the Mexican and Florida wars, militia and volunteer soldiers who served in the said wars, and command official information from the several departments at Washington, in support of claims, he has made arrangements for the sale or location of Bounties and Lands in the best Western lands. Office at the Argus Buildings, Norfolk, Nov. 5 S T SAWYER

**TO BE FOUND AT
16 AND 18 ROANOKE SQUARE,
Norfolk, Va.**

250 lbs sweet and rusty mess Pork
100 mbs mess No. 1 Family Flour
2500 bbls No. 1, 2, 3, and 4, new Mackerel
125 quintals large and bright Coffee
200 bbls sealed and No. 1, Herrings
19 half chests and bags of Gunpowder, Imperial, Olsson, Hyson, and Pouchong Tea
of recent importations
300 bags, Rio, Lagayna, Java, Maricaoiba
Puro Rico Coffee
50 boxes fresh ground Rio Coffee in halves
packages
200 patent mould and firm Tallow Candles
350 do last quality Sperm, Adamantine, Patent wax, stearine and patent sperm Candles assorted size and kind
150 boxes superior Toilet and Shaving Soap of great variety
1000 lbs fancy and plain corn Broomsticks
Whips
50 boxes pearl Starch and Salt water Soap
500 reams Rag, Palm, Wrapping, and Letter Paper
1200 bbls and kegs No. 1, and 2 Lard
25 kegs and tubs Goshen Butter
500 bbls N. E. Rum, 60 Old Rye Whiskey
5000 gallons Spanish White Solar and Linseed Oils of all kinds
200 kegs Old Colony Cut Nails, assorted sizes
200 kegs Liverpool, Fine Castles, English & G. A salt, to which might be added, Blown Glass, China, Earthenware, Foreign Engines, Goshen Cheese, Smoked Beef, Raisins, Cats, Sauces, Pickles, Preserves, Jellies, Spices of every kind, Currants, Raisins, Figs, Apples, Corn, Currants, Almonds, P. Ginger, Demijohn Wines, Brandy, Shot, Whiskey, Buckets, Wax, Lemon Syrup, Anchovies, Bitters, various other notions and delicacies already in stock, and now receiving by packets, which may secure further notice in a future advertisement.
Particulars are offered for sale at auction, on Oct 1
N. H. MARCUS

**REFINED SUGARS—Loaf, crushed powdered Sugar, a fresh supply of the above just received, for sale by
HARDY HENDREN,**
Norfolk, Nov. 5 No. 5 Campbell's wharf

Farmers, Planters, Dealers, and others the annexed catalogue of
Agricultural Implements, Horse Power Machinery, &c.,
and would be glad to have their orders for article enumerated in it. I have on hand the best and most complete assortment of tools in the State, and am constantly receiving from manufacturers North and East,
PLOWS AND MACHINERY of every description, (suitable to the Farmers) at the lowest prices.
In connexion with the above, you will find a large and extensive assortment of IRON, Brass, Horse Rascals, Carriage Springs, and Axes, and Russia, of approved brands, with Cast, and Iron, English and American Blistered Steel, and Cast, Wagon, and Drilling Axes, Spades, Shovels, Hay and Manure Forks, Axes, Nails, Spikes, cut and wrought, Hoes, Hammers, &c. Also, various kinds of English, Swedish, and Rivets, Paint Mills, and many other descriptions of Goods, all of which will be sold at the lowest prices to good customers.
Send Wide Shovel, or Working "Jack" Draw
Send Endless Chain Pump, a new article, &c.
Send orders to **SAML R. BORDMAN**,
New Agricultural and Iron Depot, Wide Street, Norfolk, Va.
EDWARD DELANY,
UNION STREET, NORFOLK, VIRGINIA.
Manufacturer of Copper, Tin, Sheet Iron, and all kinds of Castings, and of all kinds of Oil Lamps; Ethereal Oil and kerosene.
A large assortment of STOVES constantly on hand.
His charges in every case shall be moderate, and the patronage of the public is respectfully solicited.
N. B.—Lamps altered to burn Ethereal Oil.
Sept. 24
TO THE LADIES.
SPLENDID Velvet Watered Silk, Satin, &c. Gowns and Merino Cloaks and Pallets, and a beautiful variety of Shawls, Cloaks, and Laines and Cashmeres, white and cold water Silks, rich plain black Satins, for dresses, French Gown, Indian Chiffon, and with a variety of Standing and Round Collars, &c. &c. French and American Chintz, with a variety of French and Staple Goods, suitable for a household, and received and for sale on the most accommodating terms, by
PEGRAM, PAYNTER & CO.
Norfolk, Nov. 19
EXTRACT OF LOGWOOD, a fine article for dyeing purposes, may be found at the office of the subscriber.
M. O. JORDAN.

NEARLY OPPOSITE THE CUSTOM HOUSE,
Norfolk, Virginia.
KEEPS constantly on hand a large stock
EDGE TOOLS, which are warranted
stand six months.
OLD TOOLS repaired and warranted same
—and all orders promptly and faithfully executed.
Aug 6.

SUNDRIES
25 HHDS Porto Rico Sugar;
75 do Muscovado and P. R. Molasses;
300 bags Laguayra, Rio and Java Coffee;
200 do Java Coffee;
200 do superior do. ass'd brands;
500 packages lbs. 8s and 5s Tobacco, various
well known brands;
250 bushels of Fine Lard and Salt;
200 casks ground animal Salt in fine order;
500 bags Table Salt;
200 do Meal Pork;
10 tierces Rice, superior quality;
100 qr casks Port, Malaga, Madeira and
Wines;
5 pipes pure Holland and 50 bbls domestic
20 h't pipes and qr casks pure French, and
20 qr casks imitation brandy;
500 bags drop and buck Shot, ass'd sizes;
200 do buck and brown Lead Shot;
250 boxes adamantine and mould' casings;
200 bbls S fine and extra flour, and Pe
Sables, Yarns, Wrapping and Writing A
Wines, and all other articles of Groceries,
Loaf and Pulverized Sugars, Nutmegs, S
and a general assortment of *choice* groce
ceiving and in store for sale at the

JOSEPH WILLS,
Commerce st. Norfolk

THOMAS B. IRWIN,
NO. 10, ROANOKE SQUARE,
NORFOLK, VA.

HAS just received from New York the f
ing desirable articles, which he offer
sale on accommodating terms:
James Hennessy & Co., Otard, Dupuy &
& F. M. Dubouché, Extra D.O.C.K BRAND
in half pipes, vintage of 1845 and 1847.
A. Seignette Brandy, in half quarts and octaves.
Superior Pure Wine, in quarts and octaves.
Spanish Brandy, in half pipe and half
French do in quarts and octaves.
12 hds. fine St. Julien Claret.
12 hds. fine St. Emilion Claret.
10 half pipes and 20 quarter casks Tene
20 quarter casks Lisbon white do.
10 do Indian Malaga.
10 do superior Malaga Madeira do.
40 baskets Heideck, Nectar, Anchor and H
rian Lida Champagne, in quarts and pinta
10 do French Brandy, in half pipes and
20 do Pouchong and Hoqua Black do.
500 reams straw Paper; Italian Macaroni.
50 baskets fresh Salad Oil.

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POETRY.

[From the Methodist Protestant.]

THE STARS.

Look through the open window!
The day is scarcely done,
Yet the silver stars are peering
From the blue sky one by one,
Stealing gradually towards us—
With their still and pleasant light,
Like ships that from the ocean
Slowly lift their sails of white.

Or they come to us like strangers
From a far-off land unknown;
From beyond a mighty desert
Which untraveled is and lone—
Come, like modest stranger maidens,
Trembling with a secret fear,
Lest some evil thing await them
In the new land which they near.

Fairy stars! forever lovely,
Ever welcome to our sight,
Be it on a summer evening
Or a chill October night,—
Oh! we hail with joy your advent,
Your presence sweet we love,
For ye lift our pensive spirits
To the dreamy world above.

And ye seem plac'd there to cheer us,
As below we toil and weep,
Like the steadfast lights that glimmer
For the seamen o'er the deep.

Our love for things around us
May change with every hour—
May perish with the objects
May wither like the flower—
But we look for you forever,
With the same unchanged desires—
With the earnest quiet longing
With the love that ne'er expires.

MISCELLANEOUS.

[From Arthur's Home Gazette.]

THE WORST ENEMY.

A TRUE SKETCH.

BY PAUL CREYTON.

There was a strange mixture of good and evil in Edgar Sumner's character, which few could understand. Certain phrases of his intercourse with society, represented him as a pattern of manly virtue; others betrayed dark spots on his heart, and pronounced to lamentable vice.

The truth is, this Edgar was naturally upright, generous, kind-hearted—All that is admirable in a man. But he had early contracted the pernicious habit of indulging in an occasional social glass. The habit, as is nearly always the case, grew upon him, and became his master. Dissipation deadened his better feelings, and he became careless of the happiness of others. His pleasures absorbed his attention, his truest friends were neglected, and his business suffered. Yet nobody called Mr. Edgar Sumner a drunkard, for he never reeled in the street, and his excellent constitution resisted well the train of physical evils consequent upon habits of moderate drinking. Now Edgar had a wife, to whom he had been married but a few months, and whom he tenderly loved. Emily was a patient, amiable woman, well worthy the affections of a noble-hearted husband. And she loved Edgar with all the strength of her warm and devoted nature. Singular as it may appear, Edgar loving Emily as he did, could not give up his "social pleasures," as he termed them, even for her.

"My dear Emily," he would say, "you know how well I love you; but you cannot really expect me always to remain with you at home. Men of business must have recreations in which their wives cannot participate. Do you understand me, dear?" Emily invariably replied that she supposed all this was natural and right, at the same time, declaring that, much as she loved Edgar's society, and regretted his absence, she would not, for any consideration, deprive him of his separate pleasures. Then Edgar would kiss his wife an affectionate adieu, and hurry away to meet his boon companions, never dreaming that he took poor Emily's heart with him, and that all the dreary hours of his absence she wept for his neglect.

A year passed thus. Emily, naturally feeble, became languid, melancholy, pale. She suffered much, but as she never complained, Edgar scarcely ever thought of her failing health. At all events, he never suspected the cause.

For one thing, Emily had always felt grateful; dissipated as her husband had become, he always attended church with her on the Sabbath. But at length she became too feeble to go out, except in the mildest weather; and now a new trial was added to her sufferings. One cold and gusty Sabbath morning in November, Emily had concluded to stay at home, and anticipated much pleasure in the society of Edgar during the day. Her bright anticipations, however, were dissipated, and her susceptible heart was deeply wounded when she saw her husband making preparations for going out. As she knew he never went to church without her, she said timidly—

"Are you going to leave me to-day?"

"I thought I would take a walk, and call on Mr. Bruce, Charley Waters—I am not accustomed to staying in the house all day."

Emily's eyes glistened, and she sighed as she turned away her face. After a pause, she said—

"I hoped you would stay with me to-day. I am always very lonely without you—but to-day I shall miss you so much."

"Oh! I shall be back presently," replied Edgar in a careless tone, and you must make Ellen read to you while I am gone."

As Edgar kissed his wife good-bye, and as his wont, he did not observe that her lips quivered, and that her cheek was cold; and when he was gone, he did not know that she was shedding tears of sorrow over his neglect.

Indeed, we may suppose that he forgot her quite; for he did not come home

to dine; the tea was served, and the unhappy wife, after delaying long, in hopes of her return, sipped her cup, and ate her bit of toast without him; and then the chill and gloomy night came on, and Edgar was still away.

The long and cheerless evening wore on, and notwithstanding the kind intentions of her sister Ellen, who was her companion, Emily felt no happiness in the present, and saw no hope in the future.

At length Edgar returned, and from his manner, Emily plainly saw that he had been indulging in the pleasure of the winecup. He was very gay, and while his unhappy wife regarded him with tearful eyes, he earnestly declared that he had come home early for no other reason than to have a game of whist with Emily and her sister! Too much agitated to speak, Mrs. Sumner only sighed, and brushed away her tears in silence, while Ellen reminded Edgar that the Sabbath had not yet passed.

"True!" he exclaimed—"I had forgotten! And besides, there are only three of us. But we should do something for amusement, girls, what shall it be?"

"If you wish for amusement to-night," said Ellen, severely—"she was a frank, sensible girl of eighteen, but sometimes too hasty in her remarks. 'If you wish for amusement to-night, Mr. Sumner, you had better go away again. Emily is very unwell, and your neglect and carelessness are killing her.'"

"Hush!" gasped Emily. "How could you speak so, Ellen?"

"Because it is a truth, and because I am not master in my own house!" thundered Edgar, angrily. "You are an impudent jade, Miss, and if you come to create misunderstandings between me and Emily, you will do well to go home again as soon as convenient."

"Very well, sir," responded Ellen, turning her back upon Edgar, and kissing Emily affectionately—"Good night, sister. Don't cry—good night."

Emily's voice was choked with sobs, and before she could speak, Ellen had left the room.

Alone with his wife, Edgar looked darkly at the fire, and mused some moments in gloomy silence. The sobs of his wife aroused him.

"What is the matter?" he asked abruptly.

Emily could make no reply. Edgar scowled at the door through which Ellen had disappeared, and bit his lips with evident perplexity.

"This is a queer state of things," he said at length. "That girl has been trying to put strange ideas into your head, Emily. Can you say that I am ever unkind to you?"

"Oh, no!" cried Mrs. Sumner, eagerly. "You have never been unkind to me, I am sure."

"Why did she speak so to me?" Emily made no answer.

"She is certainly an impudent girl," muttered Edgar. "Why should she try to make differences between us?"

"Oh, she did not, Edgar. She means well—the dear girl; but she spoke hastily."

"And perhaps I did, too," added Mr. Sumner.

No more was said on the subject of Edgar's neglect, and he probably would not have thought of the matter again, had he not discovered, on coming home to dinner on the following day, that Ellen had gone home to her parents.

"What does this mean?" he asked.

"She said you told her to go," timidly answered Emily.

Edgar's brow gathered, and he fixed his dark eyes on the ground.

"I did say something to that effect, I do believe," he murmured—"But I said it hastily. She should not have gone for that."

"I remonstrated with her," said Emily. "But you know her spirit. She would not stay, although she loves me, and knows how much I need her."

Edgar appeared very much amazed. But it seemed that nothing indeed could make him long thoughtful of his wife's comfort. After dinner he went off whistling a popular air, and returned not until dark.

The domestic maid laid the cloth, and Edgar and Emily sat down to the table together. It was then that the vacant seat, which Ellen had always occupied, drew his attention, and occasioned a pang of regret, and a pang of remorse, perhaps.

It was a cold evening, but there was a warm fire burning in the grate, and as Edgar buried his slippers feet in the comfortable rug and opened the last number of Blackwood's Magazine, to read to Emily, the thought struck him that it might be possible for him to spend one evening pleasantly at home.

Emily's face was radiant with happiness, as she listened, gazing upon the manly features of her husband, whom she loved so well.

"Dear Edgar," she said, when he paused to stir the grate, "you are so good to stay with me this evening! You make me very happy indeed!"

"Do I?"

Mr. Sumner kissed his companion affectionately, and resumed his reading. At that moment, an approving voice within him made him glad that he had not spoken of going out.

An hour passed, and Edgar became weary of reading, and laying aside his book, added fresh fuel to the fire. Then, notwithstanding the presence of Emily, who endeavored to amuse him, he sat gazing thoughtfully at the fantastic blue flames which crept over the dark coals in the grate, growing brighter and brighter, as they crackled, reddened, and began to burn.

Wretched man! He could not content himself at home with the wife he loved even for one short evening; old habits were imperative, old associations shut out from his heart the comforts of home, and already the powerful thirst for excitement rendered him impatient to join his companions.

"What time is it?" he asked.

"A few minutes past nine," answered Emily.

Five minutes elapsed. Edgar paced to and fro uneasily.

"Emily," said he at last, "I believe I must go out for a few minutes. You'd better not sit up for me, although I shall be back soon."

Emily affectionately urged him not to go, but he persisted, declaring that he would not be gone an hour. She said

no more, and Edgar hurried away.

Emily retired, sick at heart, and weary of existence. She slept not, but as the heavy hours rolled by she listened for the returning footsteps of her husband, praying heaven for strength to suffer, and power to win Edgar from his habits of dissipation.

At midnight she heard footsteps in the silent street. They mounted the granite steps, and then the well known sound of Edgar's latch-key was heard. Edgar had come at last, excited with drink, and Emily had feared. In her agony of spirit, she neither spoke nor moved, and her husband thought she slept.

Again, on the following night Edgar forsook his wife for the society of his vicious companions, and from that time his course was downward still, and Emily, during the cold and melancholy nights, was always left alone.

Strange, that Edgar saw not how fast she failed, and how the light of her eyes was waxing dim, and how her lips were becoming thinner and paler, with an expression of settled grief.

It was now no unusual circumstance for Edgar to return home in a state of intoxication, which belied his oft-repeated boast of being a moderate drinker. Frequently he reeled upon the threshold, and exhibited signs of shocking inebriety on his return to his suffering but patient wife.

One occasion, Edgar staggered in to the door at midnight. It was a stormy February night, and his garments were covered with sleet and frozen rain; but in the forgetfulness which wine had wrought, he had left at the scene of his debauchery such a number of empty bottles, that even the cold storm had not sobered him; but he was sobered soon!

A strange spectacle met his eyes. Innumerable faces seemed swimming before him in a mist; but these, as he approached nearer, resolved themselves into only three. His wife was stretched upon a couch, and their domestic, and a kind neighbor were bending over her. In a muffled tone he demanded what it meant, and a solemn whisper replied—"Mr. Sumner, your wife is dying!"

The shock was terrible. Edgar was sober in an instant. In remorse and terror he sprang to Emily's side. She was insensible—if not dead!

"No doubt," he gasped.

"Somebody had gone for one, but none had yet arrived."

"She breathes—oh, God—do not let her die!" prayed the terrified, remorseful man.

He sprang from the room—he hurried from the house—down the street bar-headed he flew. He felt not the storm. His own guilt and his wife's danger, were all his thoughts. The freezing rain beat upon him pitilessly, and the chilling, clamorous tempest howled in his face. It was nothing! A dim light glimmered through misty glow, guided his way. It was a physician's office; and solemnly he rang. It was many minutes before any one answered the bell; and all this time Edgar was chilled by the blast, and drenched by the icy rain. But the doctor came at last; and Edgar knew no more until he was once more by the bedside of his wife.

"She lives! she lives! save her, doctor, save her! O, my Emily! look at me—speak to me—forgive me!"

It was all a dream! Edgar awoke in his own room. Silence was around him—mysterious, solemn—and his eyes struggled with darkness. He started—there was a sound! It was but the wind. He endeavored to rise from his couch, but something weighed him down like leaden chains. A groan escaped him, and at the hollow, ghastly tones of his own voice, he shuddered. Then the memory of frightful dreams filled him with terror. Still he could not rise. His limbs were like wood or stone. All his strength had left him.

At length, his eyeballs groping in darkness, sought out a ray of light. It was a grey beam that struggled through the windows, and the curtains that darkened his bed. At that moment a stealthy footstep pressed the floor, and Edgar's acute ear could distinguish a sound of suppressed breathing. The reality of his situation then rushed upon the young man's mind. He was ill—he had been ill, and this time a good angel answered with a sigh.

It was Ellen Blake, his wife's sister! She bent over the sick man and whispered in his ear words of hope and kindness. Edgar remembered that he had once driven her from his house; and then the awful memory of all his guilt rushed upon his heart. A more vivid flood of reason informed him that the stormy night—the illness of his wife—the terror and despair he felt at the prospect of her death—that all this was not a dream, but reality!

A cry of agony escaped him.

"Emily—my Emily—is she alive?" he murmured, but Ellen understood not his feeble, incoherent tones.

"Hush—you must not speak, she is dead, but Emily will soon be well."

"But Emily?"

"I am not Emily—I am Ellen. You shall see Emily soon."

"She is not dead, then?"

"Oh, no; very feeble, but still alive. 'God bless you, angel!' murmured Edgar. 'I was afraid she died last night!'"

"Last night?"

"Yes, when I went for the doctor."

"Dear Edgar!" exclaimed Ellen, bursting into tears, "that was three weeks ago!"

The young man was still very low, but the assurance that Emily was not dangerously ill, the care of the doctor, and the kindness of Ellen, served to restore his strength. Slowly, but gradually he recovered, and in time he was able to get up with the assistance of others, and to walk across the room.

He had not yet seen Emily. She was not able to leave her apartment, and her illness, of long standing, was of a more dangerous nature than her husband's.

One day Edgar felt unusually strong. Impatient to see his wife, he stole from his room unobserved, and sought Emily's apartment. The door was partly open, and he entered unheeded. His suffering wife was alone, reclining on the couch which she had not left for many days. Eagerly Edgar sprang forward, forgetting his feeble state, and fell upon the bed by her side. In a moment they were in each other's arms, sobbing like children. Edgar was praying to be forgiven for his guilty neglect, which had well-nigh killed

her, and she was interrupting him with assurances of pardon and never-dying love.

Oh, it was then that the wretched husband, on his knees by the bedside of his injured wife, opened to her his heart. During his convalescence he had reflected. He saw all his errors in their true light, and now he confessed in deep humility. The hand of heaven had chastened him, and he bowed submissively, for his punishment was not only just, but necessary to his good. He had been blind to sin before, but the scales had been torn away from his eyes. He felt the pain, but blessed the light. Oh! he would not complain, but he prayed heaven, there in the presence of her he had wronged, to forgive as she forgave him, and to restore her to health—not for his sake, but her own, and that of her friends, to whom she was dear.

Ellen came. She lifted Edgar from his knees, and in language of heavenly kindness, cheered his broken and repentant spirit. Emily needed no words of hope and consolation; her heart was already overflowing with joy.

Oh, the divine power of hope and happiness! From that day Emily began to recover strength. The love which shone in Edgar's countenance was of more avail than the skill of all physicians. A new fountain of vitality poured its refreshing and magic waters into her heart.

Reader, this is no mere fancy sketch. I could point out to you the principal characters in this story to-day. Would you see them? Come with me—in imagination to contemplate reality. Behold that happy circle, gathered about the fire-side that diffuses warmth and cheer these cold December nights—Comforts surround them, and you see at a glance that happiness is theirs. Yonder middle-aged man, with dark hair sparsely sprinkled with gray, and an eye that bespeaks the generous soul and manly intellect, is the Edgar of my sketch. The beautiful woman, whose brow expands in his affectionate smile, is his wife. The fair girl of five summers, and the gentle boy of two, sitting upon the rug to warm their feet before they go to bed, are the children of this happy home. The couple who are playing chess at the table, are Ellen and her husband—a man well worthy of her love—who are on a visit to the Sumners.

All are happy—even Edgar, for his old habits of dissipation have been completely overcome, and the sight of the winecup causes him to shudder, and exclaim—

"Oh, ye moderate drinkers, beware! Crush the serpent before it is too late to shake off his tightening folds. Ruin not your own peace and the happiness of your friends, and wait not for the chastening hand of Heaven to teach you wisdom with calamity, and quench your thirst with fire."

SOWING A NAME.

We have seen a young child express the greatest surprise and delight in discovering in a flower bed its name written in the green of the young plants, the seed of which had been sown in that form by a fond father or mother. But by-and-by, dear children, you will see your names and characters as it has been planted by yourself, springing up in the opinion of people entertaining concern for you, and it will be exactly as you have sown it. Be careful then how you sow. Do not spoil your own name by sowing foolishly or wrongly. Remember, every word and action is a seed put in, which will surely spring up and constitute your name in the world.

A DISGRACE TO HIS SPECIES.—A friend has just related to us a curious fact in natural history, respecting a dog. In North Attleboro', in this State, there is kept in a manufacturing establishment a large mastiff, who takes as much comfort in a quid of tobacco as the most inveterate lover of the weed. So habituated has he become to its use, that he must have it, and will sit all day in the centre of the store, chewing away with a good appetite and a good relish. He became thus much like a man by playing with old "sogers" as the ends of cigars are professionally termed. In such play he would occasionally find a "soger" in his mouth, until at length a taste was formed for the tobacco, which has since increased, and now he is what he is. We believe this to be the only instance on record of any animal but man, and one species of worm, using the weed from the pure love of it.

Boston Cabinet.

Miss Weber, a young Belgian lady, stands prominent among the advocates of woman's rights. Her practice is in accordance with her theory, and she wears male attire and carries on a farm. She is handsome, only 24 years old, dresses in the Parisian fashion of black dress coat and pants, with buff vest. Her defence of the practice is easy. "The nether garment (she says) was first worn in the bifurcated form by the women of ancient Judea." The exclusive claim which man so pertinaciously maintains to the use of this garment, is arbitrary, without a solitary argument to support it, not even that of prior usage. Nature never intended that the sexes should be distinguished by apparel. The beard which she assigned to man is the natural token of his sex. Miss W. claims every civil, political and ecclesiastical right for woman, and it is said that her every word, look and action is characterized with the most refined womanly delicacy.

AN IRISHMAN'S SPECIES.—"Och, Jamie, an' did ye niver hear uv my great spach after the Hibernian Society?"

"No, Pat, how should I? For sure, I was not on the ground."

"Well, Jamie, you see I was called upon by the Hibernian Society for a speech; and be jabers I rose with the enthusiastic cheers of thousands and tens of thousands, with me heart overflowing with gratitude, and me eyes filled with tears, and *divil* the word did I spake."

Affection cannot excite sympathy. How can you feel for him who cannot feel for himself? How can he feel for himself who exhibits the artificial graces of studied attitude.

A BEAR STORY.

The following singular adventure we give as near as possible to the language of the gentleman who related it; and we will here add that there is no doubt, but it is perfectly true in every particular.

"Some years ago," said he, while travelling in the northern part of the State of New Hampshire, I had occasion to spend a night in the hospitable mansion of a genuine New England farmer of the old school. The house was situated in one of those quiet and delightful valleys which abound among the romantic White Hills of the 'Old Granite State.'"

"To my inquiry, can I be accommodated with supper and a night's lodging?" the old farmer cordially answered that I was heartily welcome to make his house my home as long as it suited my convenience, if I could content myself with the every day fare which his poor mansion afforded. I readily consented to stop with him on these terms; and to tell the truth, there was something rather inviting in the old gentleman's intelligent countenance, and unaffected manners. 'Accordingly seated myself beside the capacious kitchen fire-place, the blazing contents of which presented a most cheering aspect to one who had become completely chilled by several hours' ride in the bleak raw wind for which November has so long been famed. The smoking supper was soon served, and was a perfect specimen of the homely, unceremonious style of genuine hospitality, for which the farmers of New England have been so justly famed in by-gone days."

"Food is one of the most welcome sights, that can greet a weary traveller, and is eaten with a peculiar relish even when ordinary or inferior quality. In the present case, the generous slices of savory bacon, which formed no contemptible pile, on a large plate near the head of the table, would have upset the vegetarian philosophy of Doctor Graham, and proved a sore temptation to the conscientious scruples of Major Noah himself. An ample plate of snow-white bread, made from homegrown wheat occupied the centre—Near the foot was a milk-pan full of smoking fritters, all swimming in melted butter and sugar, and beside it, stood 'a huge old fashioned pumpkin-pie.' 'Around' and between were placed several large bowls—one containing a goodly supply of the most delicious apple sauce, of a beautiful cherry-red. This sauce, which is a universal favorite with old and young, and one of the healthiest, as well as most agreeable accompaniments for an evening meal, is nowhere found in its perfection except at the farmer's own table. Another bowl had quince preserve, and a third was filled with the purest honey. A plentiful supply of the richest butter and cheese, left nothing to desire in the way of food."

"Besides a superb cup of green tea, with a plentiful supply of the richest cream, each person was served to a generous glass of cider. This, it must be remembered, was before cider drinking was out of fashion. After a hearty meal, for which my appetite was well prepared, not less from the long ride in the pure and bracing atmosphere of this delightful region, than from the tempting quality of the delicious vivands, so profusely spread before me, we again seated ourselves around the hospitable old fire-place, and resumed our conversation."

"I found the old gentleman shrewd and well informed. He related many of his early adventures; one of which was to be the subject of the present story. I will undertake to tell it in his own words. 'When I first moved to this place,' said he, 'the whole country was a wilderness, with only here and there a cleared spot. Bears were numerous throughout the whole region, and annoyed the inhabitants very much. For two or three years, I had been wholly unmolested, and had ceased to give myself any uneasiness about them. One dark night my two cows, a speckled cow and black heifer, were missing. After searching a long while, I at length found the speckled cow, and soon after came across an animal, which, in the darkness I supposed to be the black heifer. I had a most tedious time driving them home. I had no difficulty with the speckled cow, but the black heifer had never led me such a jaunt before; and, never in my life was I more tempted to cudgel an animal than I was to flog her, when at last I had her safely in the yard. But, most fortunately, as the sequel will show, I let her alone, and went into the house to cool off, and rest myself, before milking. On returning again to the yard, I went as usual, and milked the speckled cow first; and then started up with my milking stool in one hand and pail in the other to milk, what I supposed to be, my black heifer."

"Here, a violent fit of coughing interrupted the narrator. I was not a little surprised at this, as it was my first intimation I had received that the host was laboring under a disease of the lungs. Impatiently being thus interrupted, in the most interesting part of the story, I immediately inquired—with no little anxiety, 'Had you no idea until that moment, that you had driven home a bear?'"

"Driven home a bear!" exclaimed the old gentleman, with the utmost astonishment. 'I never supposed I had driven home a bear; it was the black heifer. I told you I drove her home, and as I was saying, after milking the speckled cow, I went and milked her."

A stuttering Vermont farmer was asked the way to Waterbury. With great politeness he strove to say that it was right a head, but in vain. The more he tried, the more he couldn't. At last, red in the face, and furious with unavailing exertion, he burst forth with—"Gug-gug-gug! darn ye! ye'll gig-gig-gig there afore I can tell ye!"

An Irishman in speaking of Canada, says, it is the only country that a poor man should think of for a moment. You have not only lots of work and plenty of mate, but a climate so cold that you have nothing to do for more nor half the year.

"How changeable the wind is," said an old lady. "It is the changeablest thing I ever did see. When I went up Walnut street, it was blowin' in my face, and when I turned to go down, don't you think it went blowin' on my back?"

TENACITY OF LIFE.

Fishes and other cold-blooded animals, will survive an intense torpidity. 'The fish froze,' says Captain, now Sir John Franklin, in the narrative of the Journey to the Polar Sea, 'as fast as they were taken out of the nets and in a short time became a solid mass of ice, and by a blow or two of the hat were easily split open, when the intestines might be removed in one lump. If in this completely frozen state, they were thawed before the fire, they recovered their animation. We have seen a carp so far recovered as to leap about with much vigor after it had been frozen for 36 hours.'

The celebrated Isaac Walton quotes Gesner for the fact of some large breams being put into a pond, which was frozen the next winter into one mass of ice, so that not one could be found, and they were all swimming about again when the pond thawed in the spring—a thing 'almost as incredible,' says the sentimental sinner, as Lord Byron calls him, 'as the resurrection of the atheist.'

Insects easily bear torpidity from cold. In Newfoundland, Capt. Buchanan saw a frozen lake, which, in the evening, was all still and frozen over, but, as soon as the sun had dissolved the surface in the morning, it was in a state of animation, owing, as appeared by close inspection, to myriads of flies let loose, while many still remained fixed and frozen around."

Ellis also mentions that a large black mass, like coal or peat, dissolved when thrown upon the fire into a cloud of musquitos.

These insects, says the *Note Book of a Naturalist*, which hibernate, are not thought to prepare for and enter into that state solely from cold, as they do so when the season comes round, although the weather be as warm as previously; and they show no disposition before this period, though the temperature chance to be as low as it usually is in the season of hibernation."

Some animals become torpid on being deprived of moisture; the most simple instance is the earthworm, for instance. A common garden snail becomes torpid if put in a dry place, and may revive at any time by the application of a little water. Moisture has revived some animals after a torpidity of 27 years. The same is true of some of the most simple vegetables, as mosses.

The microscope wheel animal, after remaining three or four years in a shriveled point, capable of being broken to pieces like a crystal of salt, is still recoverable by a drop of water, and the vibro or eel, or blighted corn, after 20 or 30 years. Yet electricity destroys their capability of resuscitation."

Most vegetables become torpid in winter. Many lichens and mosses, dried in Liberia, have been restored to life by moisture, after the lapse of very many years. Seeds and bulbs, which have remained for centuries in the bowels of the earth, have sprung into life on being thrown into a more congenial soil; this was shown recently, in trellising for a plantation in part of Bushy Park, which had probably been undisturbed by the spade or plough since, and perhaps long before the reign of Charles the First. The ground was turned up in winter, and in the following summer it was covered with a profusion of the tree pansies, mignonette and the wild raspberry, plants which are nowhere to be found in a wild state in the neighborhood; and in a plantation subsequently made at Richmond Park, a great many of the foxglove came up after some deep trenching."

The Hypocoon procumbens was lost in the Upsal gardens for forty years, but was accidentally resuscitated by digging the ground it had formerly occupied; and a species of lobelia, which had been missing for 20 years in the Amsterdam garden was unexpectedly recovered in the same manner."

SOUTHERN VEGETABLE DIET.—We can have vegetables the year round, and with so little labor that it is a matter of wonder to a provident man that an independent citizen is content with so small a variety. The cabbage tribe will give us boiled vegetables from the first of May to the first of January. Then there are pumpkins, parsnips, and winter squashes for winter; squashes for summer; beans, peas, corn, &c., for spring. What living for us of the South! But fruits in their season are not to be forgotten. Strawberries from the 15th of April to the 15th of May; then Chickasaw plums until first or middle of June; figs, then raspberries; nutmeg peaches; soon after, Early York, Early Titliston and other peaches; June apples; Early Catharine, Jargonelle, and other pears. A family can have fruit from the tree and vine from the middle of April to first of January, without resorting to hot-house culture."

Notwithstanding these varied gifts of God to us, we will continue to gormandize meat, and for this simple reason, we are accustomed to it, and will not try another plan."

LEAF-BLIGHT IN THE PLUM.—Accident often teaches valuable lessons to the observing. The following interesting fact is mentioned by E. K. Phoenix, in the *Prairie Farmer*: '